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THE LOCAL COINAGE OF YOUGHAL.

BY THE REV. SAMUEL HAYMAN, B.A.

No. I.—MONEY OF NECESSITY.

THE Tokens which will come into my first division are popularly called Siege Pieces. They have been so designated, as belonging to a type of money hastily made in a beleaguered town, for the purpose of supplying the place of the regular coinage. In their outward presentment these pieces display the exigency of the occasion that produced them. They are for the most part rudely executed, sometimes barbarously so. They are of various metals: silver, copper, brass, lead, or pewter (seemingly as these severally could be found and be made available); and of divers shapes: circular, octangular, square, lozenged, or triangular. They are found sometimes without inscription, and sometimes are stamped on but one side; but for the most part they have an obverse and reverse, and bear, either fully or in some abridged form, the name of the place in which they were struck, the armorial bearings of the town or of its governor, and the year in which they were thrown off to meet the existing pressure.

The Obsidional Money of England has received well-deserved attention. Much of it was put forth, in the troublous times of Charles I., between the years 1643 and 1648, by royalist commanders of towns when besieged by the Parliamentary forces. The chief places of issue were Newark, Carlisle, Pontefract, and Scarborough; and among the pieces struck in these towns occur all varieties of shape which I have before alluded to.

It is not generally known that about the same time a similar coinage was struck in Ireland, and was put into circulation in a few southern towns, which, in the midst of general defection, continued faithful to the English Crown. The purpose of the present paper is to describe, with a few suitable illustrations, the Money of Necessity issued in Youghal. I am not aware that the subject, *as such*, has been brought before general readers in a distinct form; and I would fain that it had been taken up (if only his leisure had permitted) by the gifted friend, whose drawings grace this and the subsequent article, Dr. Aquilla Smith.

The towns in Ireland that adopted this issue of money were the four chief places of Munster: Cork, Youghal, Bandon, and Kinsale. These were the only towns in the province which, at the period referred to, were safe from the Irish party, as Sir William St. Leger, the Lord President, testified in his printed letter to the Lord Lieutenant (London, 1642).

Sir William Penn, the famous Sea-General of the Commonwealth, writing at the same time, gives us a similar account of these places; as likewise does Sir John Temple, in his "History of the Civil War of 1641." And Sir Richard Cox, in his "History of Ireland" (vol. ii., page 190), shows that, even a few years later, these were the only places in Munster held by the English:—"The Parliament hath [i. e. in 1646] Cork, Kinsale, Youghal, and Bandon."

Our distinguished fellow-countryman, the late Thomas Crofton Croker, whose quick eye suffered nothing to pass unobserved that related to the ancient history of Ireland, attributed the coinage of Money of Necessity in Ireland to Lord Broghill. Writing to me, September 12, 1853, Mr. Croker said:—

"Pray look after any old tobacco pipes turned up in or about Youghal—I have my reasons for making this suggestion; also any pewter bits or square copper bits of this size and character." [He here gave a graphic pen-and-ink sketch of a triangular and a circular piece, labelling them "pewter or lead," and of a square token, bearing on the obverse "Y T," and on the reverse a ship, over which he wrote "copper"]. "I call this the Broghill Coinage—a new fact for numismatists, but one I think I can establish, as well as the date [to be] 1646, from specimens found at Cork, Youghal, Bandon, and Kinsale. More on this subject."

Again, in a letter of Nov. 28, the same year, he observed:—

"I have very little to add to Broghill's Coinage of 1646 (Youghal, Cork, Kinsale, and Bandon being then under Lord Broghill's command or influence) beyond what you already know. My industrious sister picked up for me, to complete the series of these square bits of brass, a B.B. or Bandonbridge token. This piece was found since Lindsay's work was published, and [was] therefore not known to him. . . . I shall, with pleasure, send you careful drawings of all, when my eyes get a little better, and the fogs clear off."

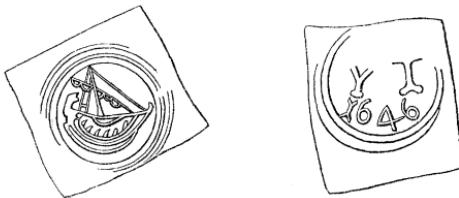
Mr. Croker's failing health induced him to defer a fulfilling of these kind intentions; and his decease, which followed in the course of the next year, put a stop for ever to their accomplishment. We have, however, here his views concerning the Irish Money of Necessity; and when I mention that he was at this time engaged in preparing a Life of Lord Broghill, for which he had made extensive preparation, and that his store of original papers belonging to the Boyle Family was perhaps unrivalled, we may accept without hesitation his decision concerning the authorship of these pieces.

Let us now proceed to describe the Youghal pieces:—

The rudest specimens were dug up near the town walls in the year 1816, along with a little copper coin called "a Patrick." They were, four pewter bits, two circular, and two triangular in shape. The circular pieces were the size of a half-crown and of

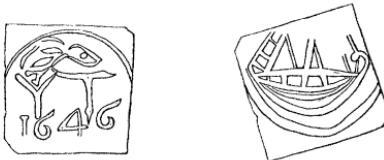
a shilling, respectively, and the triangular ones seemed as if they had been once the two quarters of a circular piece. They were all without legend or intelligible device, bearing only on both sides marks of having been squeezed in some instrument like a vice. By Mr. Lindsay, who has engraved them ("Supplement," Plate v. Nos. 10, 11, 12, and 13), they were denominated "Uncertain Pewter Coins;" but Mr. Crofton Croker, into whose possession they passed soon after their discovery, regarded them as of the "Broguehill Coinage," and alluded to them as such in his letter, dated September 12, 1853, which I have already quoted.

If there be some difficulty in deciding about the pewter pieces, there can be none in regard to the six interesting specimens of the Money of Necessity, which I shall now describe. The first I shall take is the heaviest, weighing 55 grains. It bears on the obverse



"YT" (i. e. Youghal Town), and beneath these letters, "1646." On the reverse is an ancient galley, being the arms of the borough. We may remark, that the obverse is partially defaced, and, as the kindred specimens which follow, have each some device over the initial letters of the town, such may have existed likewise in this piece. Specimens are in the British Museum (having been purchased after Mr. Croker's sale), and in the cabinets of Mr. Lindsay and of Dr. Aquilla Smith.

The second Youghal piece weighs 22 grains, and its obverse



and reverse resemble the preceding one. Here, however, over the "YT" we have a rude representation of a bird(?). The engraving is made from a specimen in Dr. Aquilla Smith's collection.

No. 3 of the Youghal pieces is of a like pattern with No. 1. The bird in chief on the obverse is here clearly developed. Perhaps it was intended for an heraldic martlet. This mark of cadency denotes a younger son, and may thus fitly designate the person who

issued the piece,—Lord Broghill, who was one of the younger sons of Richard, first Earl of Cork. This coin weighs 15 grains, and is in Dr. Aquilla Smith's cabinet.

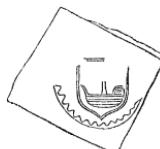


No. 4 presents us with the bird on the obverse, in a perfect



shape, so that its resemblance to the martlet may be more plainly seen. The obverse and reverse are like Nos. 1, 2, and 3. The piece weighs 14 grains, and is in Mr. Sainthill's collection.

No. 5 exhibits a different type from the rest. The specimen



from which the engraving has been made was turned up on the 6th of July, 1853, in the course of some excavations made near St. Mary's Church, Youghal, and is believed to be unique. Its weight is 20 grains. It is the property of Dr. Aquilla Smith.

The sixth and last specimen of the Youghal Money of Neces-



sity differs from all the rest. The obverse still bears the "YT" for Youghal Town, but the reverse has a fish, in allusion, doubtless, to the maritime position of the town. This piece weighs only 9 grains, and is in Mr. Sainthill's collection.